

PROCEDURE FOR THE ISSUE AND USE OF 'TASTER' CARDS

Issue of Taster Cards

A majority of new members come along at the invitation or recommendation of a friend who is already a member. They therefore know in advance and in some detail what it is that Maghull and Lydiate U3A offers. They usually come knowing what group(s) they wish to attend and are ready to sign up for membership.

In a small minority of cases a potential new member will come along knowing only in outline terms what is on offer and wanting to find out more before determining whether membership is appropriate for them. In these cases the membership team can offer the potential new member a *Taster card*. This is a normal membership card which contains no membership number and for which no payment is taken. *Taster cards* are stamped with the word TASTER in the space in which the membership number is usually written. The 'expiry date' of the *Taster card* is written on the back of the card.

The potential new member is advised that the *Taster card* entitles them to attend whatever group activities they chose during the next calendar month, subject to attending a maximum of one meeting of each group selected. At, or before, the end of the calendar month we hope that they will sign up to full membership, pay the annual subscription and be able to take advantage of all the usual membership benefits.

Use of Taster Cards

Group Leaders need to be aware that occasionally a new person will attend one of their meetings, having a *Taster card* instead of a full membership card. Hopefully the *Taster card* holder will be enthused about the group activities and be ready to sign up for full membership.

Please seek to avoid misuse of the cards by not allowing a holder to attend more than one meeting or to exceed the expiry date written on the card.

Very occasionally group leaders may be asked if a friend, for example, may attend a meeting to see if the activity is what they are seeking. In these cases please ask the membership team as soon as possible to provide a *Taster card*.

The Membership Team has the responsibility for following up *Taster card* holders at the end of the month's validity of their card to confirm whether or not they wish to take up full membership. If they do not wish to do so, the main reason(s) for this will be sought so as to provide useful information and to guide future decisions.